

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 61

May 2014

No. 5



Calendar

Wed., Apr. 23	Citizens Association Candidates' Forum, Town Hall, 8 pm; see candidates' statements, pp 6-10	meeting, Town Office, 7:30 pm (see p 3)
Fri., Apr. 25	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby	Tues., May 13 Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., Apr. 26	Pooch Parade, 10 am; Yoga beginner class with Liz Chabra, Town Hall, 2 pm	Thurs., May 15 GP Casual Music Jam Town Hall, 8 pm
Sun., Apr. 27	Weed Warrior Day, Cambria Park, starting at 10 am	Sat., May 17 Women's Club Progressive Dinner (see p 5)
Wed., Apr. 30	Dues payment deadline for the Swimming Pool	Fri., May 23 Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place lobby
Thurs., May 1	GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., May 24 Pool opens, 10 am; Biennial Garrett Park Town Yard Sale (p 4)
Sat., May 3	Art at Penn Place: Vickie Baily photographs, "Farmer Tim," reception 12 to 2 pm (see p 5)	Mon., May 26 Memorial Day; No trash collection
Mon., May 5	Town election: Voting, Post Office lobby, 7 am-7:30 pm; Swearing-in party, Town Hall, 9 pm, results by 9:30 pm (we hope); Sidewalks Committee	Tues., May 27 GPES Spring Chorus Concert, School, 7:30 pm
		Wed., May 28 Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (note date change)
		Thurs., May 29 GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm

Smoothness and Execution

There was a general sense, at April's Town Council meeting, of things Garrett Park being done right, of projects getting finished smoothly, revenues being gathered pretty successfully, elections being held efficiently. With blooming cherry and pears trees visible outside the windows of the Town Hall, the Council went about its business briskly and well.

It started with a presentation from a representative of the Citizens Association, who asked the Council for guidance on putting signs up in town announcing upcoming meetings and other events (Spooky Woods, July Fourth, etc.). "What is the town's policy on signage?" The Mayor replied that we don't have one, but we should give this some thought. Joanna Welch pointed out that signs could also be used to remind people to vote in the upcoming town elections.

A nuts and bolts discussion ensued: Are we talking white board? Would that hold up to the

rain? Maybe we should invest in something with sliding glass in front of it. And what about location? The Kenilworth triangle for sure; front of Town Hall, tennis courts...

Since the town currently has no signage policy, the Mayor said, the Citizens Association should decide on what they want and come back to the Council with a proposal. "This may be something the town wants to pay for. We're open to your proposals."

Next we turned to Actions:

On the fiscal 2015 operating capital budgets, the Mayor complimented the Council on its very thoughtful recent handling of this. "It was a difficult job dealing with lower revenues than we had originally anticipated. And there's the potential that next year revenues will continue to be lower, rather than recover as much as we thought they could. The discussion of all of this was thoughtful

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and careful, balancing the needs of the community and the need to have a balanced budget.”

Kacky Chantry thanked Joanna Welch for preserving the increase we had allocated to the archives for 2015.

The budget was unanimously approved.

In other action, Kathy Gagnon’s appointment to the archives committee was approved by the Council.

Under Discussions, Gene first reminded us of the people nominated for offices in the upcoming election. The Candidates’ Forum will take place on April 23. The same group of judges as last year will oversee this year’s election.

Tara Flynn now updated us on the development of a town handbook for Garrett Park employees. “The process so far has showed us that the grand idea of putting it all together wasn’t really working. It makes more sense to break things into parts. So for instance we now have compensation policies in pretty good shape, and these will be shared with the town by the end of this week or the beginning of next week. I’d like to have a work session on April 28; the idea is to have everyone look at it, talk about it, to see if we can get something on the books. The goal is to make sure we’ve got some version of compensation policies on the books by the start of the fiscal year. Also in the process there will be a check on things by an employment lawyer to make sure we’re okay legally.”

The Mayor said: “The town has never had any policies for our employees. We are now writing guidelines down, and it’s a big piece of work covering an incredibly broad range of issues employees might face. The town wants to be fair and open with the people it hires, and we want all the town residents to know what we do and how we do it.”

Gene now turned to various road construction projects. Weather has delayed some of this work a bit, but we’re doing basically okay. “We walked everything that was paved, and everything looks good. There’s an area on Clermont Place where some structural support for the street is missing, and we had to do more there, which added a little to the cost of what was done.”

Kacky Chantry asked about the replaced speed bumps, which seem to her bigger. “Yes. They are now at the state standard.”

The most exciting news out of this meeting for your reporter was that the new date for the June Town Council meeting will be the sixteenth, which you must know is Bloomsday, when we celebrate all things James Joyce. Bring a Guinness to that one, or your old dog-eared copy of *Ulysses*. (May 28 is the new date for next month’s meeting.)

There was no New Business.

In his report, the Town Manager said he’s still a little concerned about the revenue side. We will indeed have some shortfall, but there are other areas of revenue that are going to be somewhat higher than projected, “so I think we’ll be okay.” One area of concern is overtime, but we do have some money available to us in that personnel category. All problematic issues have been caused by the crazy weather. Additional snow has meant extra help, equipment issues, etc.

Gene went on to note that we’ve had vandalism at Penn Place and the community center, with air conditioning units being taken apart. A new fence is up. “We are just trying to make it hard to get in there: if they really want to get in they’ll get in.” Work to fix vandalized units at the community center will happen this week. A police patrol has been beefed up in town, where we’ve also had some domestic break-ins. (Two of these were quickly solved, with the thieves caught and items returned.) The Mayor reminded us that there’s always an increase in vandalism at this time of year.

Kacky said that the proposals received for doing the new town Web site range from \$3500 to almost \$95,000 (laughter in the audience at the latter figure). We’re starting to review everything and narrow down the field. Most proposals envision three or four months to get it running.

On Safe Routes to School: The State Highway Administration wants us to use a firm already under contract to them. We’re waiting for them to set up a meeting with us to talk about this some more. Mayor Benjamin says this approach is not what we would prefer; we’d prefer to go out to bid. But SHA has made it clear it’ll take much longer if we don’t do it their way.

Gene’s last point had to do with the Shelley Court drain problem. Yet more work needs to be done. The contractor has agreed to pay for it.

I think the Shelley Court drain has been an issue since before I was born. Perhaps it was even the inspiration for Keats: Thou wast not born for death, immortal Drain!

Margaret Soltan

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Town Manager Notes

Town elections. Elections will be held Monday, May 5. The Mayor and two seats on the Town Council are on the ballot. Please be sure to vote!

In order to vote, prior registration is required. All citizen voters must be on the Montgomery County voter rolls; noncitizens must be registered with the town.

Candidates for town offices. At the Garrett Park Citizens Association Meeting held on March 26, current Mayor Peter Benjamin was nominated for another term. Nominated for Town Council were Tara Flynn (incumbent), Michael Lutkenhouse, Liz Overstreet, and Hans Wegner (incumbent). See Candidates’ statements, pp 6–10.

Absentee ballots. There are two types of absentee ballots: The regular absentee ballots are available from the Town Office until 4 pm on May 1. After May 1, late absentee ballots will be available at the Town Office, and on Election Day from the Judges of Election at the Polls. **Note:** Voters requiring absentee ballots need to file an application. Applications are available from the Town Office or can be downloaded from the town’s Web site, garrettpark-md.gov. The Clerk or Judges must receive absentee ballots before the polls close at 7:30 pm on Election Day if they are to be counted.

Hours of voting. Voting hours for the election on May 5 will be 7 am to 7:30 pm, in the Post Office lobby, Penn Place, 4600 Waverly Avenue.

Election reception at Town Hall. The Town Hall bell will be rung before the election results are announced. The evening will include a reception, which starts at 9 pm, and a swearing-in ceremony. We expect the results to be available by 9:30 pm, so plan to come and greet the newly elected Councilmembers.

Judges of Election. Natalie Grande, Suzanne Grefsheim, and Cliff Tarpy will serve as Judges. Throughout the day several poll workers will assist them.

Fiscal year 2015 budget. The budget was approved by the Town Council at its regular meeting on April 14. Copies of the budget are available at the Town Office and on the town Web

site. The FY 2015 budget leaves the real property tax rate unchanged at 21¢ per \$100 of value, the personal and corporate property tax unchanged at \$1 per \$100 of assessed valuation, and the refuse collection fee unchanged at \$366 per household.

Street paving project. Thank you to all residents for helping with the project by not parking on the areas to be paved. The work was completed in eight days with as little disruption to traffic as possible. The town’s top priority street problems were patched and repaved.

Upcoming Town Council meeting dates. The May Council meeting has been rescheduled for May 28, 7:30 pm. (Mayor Benjamin will be out of town for the originally scheduled May 12 meeting.)

The June Council meeting has been moved to June 16, 7:30 pm. (Several Councilmembers are attending the Maryland Municipal League meeting on June 9.)

If you have questions about town services, just give me a call at 301-933-7488.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

Sidewalks Committee

The “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS) citizen advisory committee met in April to discuss the current state of the project. At the moment the town is waiting for the State Highway Administration (SHA) to meet about a potential engineering firm. The committee again expressed to the town that the engineering firm must understand the values of the town (preservation of character, tree, historical sites, etc.). The committee will be supplying the town with a letter for SHA to reiterate our needs.

Our minutes will be published on the town’s Web site. Additionally, anyone is welcome to come to our meetings; our next meeting is May 5 at 7:30 pm in the Town Office.

Please feel free to e-mail us at garrett-park-sidewalk-advisory-committee-2013@google-groups.com.

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Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

Citizens Association News

In March we had Montgomery County Safety Officer Janney give a chat. With some of the recent break-ins around town, it was nice to have a few reminders:

- Lock your cars, and remove electronics (like iPads and GPS units) from view. Car thefts are the most common calls that they get.
- Get an inexpensive surveillance camera (like those sold at Costco) to mount outside your house. Criminals hate to have their picture taken.

Officer Janney is happy to come to your house and do a home security audit. Call him at 240-773-6728 to schedule a visit.

The Citizens Association is hosting the GP Candidates' Forum on Wednesday, April 23, 8 pm, Town Hall.

Future meetings. We are pondering a movie night in May. Watch the listserv and Post Office for an announcement.

Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Michael Lutkenhouse or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2014 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Michael Lutkenhouse.



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**9am-7pm
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Townwide Yard Sale

For this year's yard sale, to be held on Saturday, May 24, from 9 am till 2 pm (rain date Sunday, May 25, also 9 to 2), the Women's Club will provide signage on Strathmore and directional signs to the P.O. for maps of sale locations. We will also have notices in the *Gazette*, *Washington Post*, Craig's List, and the town Web site.

Wagging Tails, the thrift store that supports the Montgomery County Humane Society, will be picking up the leftovers at 3 pm at several locations to be determined. They will not take some items, such as mattresses and computer parts. I will try to notify you about those, or you can check their Web site at mchumane.org.

All residents of Garrett Park (*only*) are invited to hold individual yard sales on their property for their own benefit. No streets will be closed, and no sale should spill into the street and impede traffic. You can make your own signs directing visitors to your specific location. You can also arrange for your leftovers to go to a charity of your own choosing, if you prefer.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you want to participate so we can put you on the map, and if you wish, list the main items you will be selling for the benefit of GP shoppers, who will get a preview. Thanks for supporting the GPWC.

Caroline Turner

Obituary

Mary Louise Keister

On Saturday, March 15, in Kensington, after a year-long battle with lung cancer, Mary Louise (Mimi) Keister passed away peacefully in her home at age 76 surrounded by her family. She is survived by her beloved husband of 54 years, Frederick P. Keister, daughter Marita (husband Ned) Sherburne, son John (wife Annu) Keister, daughter Anne (husband Brandt) Rice, son William (wife Tina) Keister, along with five grandchildren, five nieces and nephews, countless other relatives, and friends. She also leaves her dog Chief.



Family and friends celebrated mass on Saturday, March 29, at Holy Cross Church, Kensington, followed by a reception at Trinity Lutheran Church, North Bethesda. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, the Montgomery County Humane Society, or Friends of the National Zoo.

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:
www.garrettpark-md.gov

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The *e-Bugle* is available online the Monday after the Town Council meeting. You can find it on the town Web site.
- ♪ From the PO: please return those yellow package slips that may be scattered around your house. Their supply is running low!
- ♪ The Garrett Park Elementary 4th and 5th grade chorus concert will be on May 27 in the multi-purpose room at the school. It will start at 7:30 pm, and all residents are welcome to attend.
- ♪ Isabella Suthard of Strathmore Avenue died on April 3 at age 92. She is survived by her daughter Susanne Crimm and son Gregory. She also leaves 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Holy Cross Church on April 11. Our condolences to her family.
- ♪ Belated congratulations to Frank O'Brimski on the birth of a great-grandson on November 27, 2013, to granddaughter Sharon and her husband Josh Boone. They are currently living

in Wheaton with her mom Margaret and their 2-year-old son. (Last December we thanked Frank for sponsoring a green banner in honor of the occasion, but we didn't note the particulars!)

- ♪ Anyone who flew Southwest Airlines or Airtran recently may have seen the short article about Emma Lincoln and husband Kiyoshi Mino in the March issue of *Spirit Magazine*. They were part of an article about "The new American Dream" and had the caption "The Ruralists." They are living on a 10-acre farm in Forest, Illinois, and raise their own sheep, steers, pigs, chickens, ducks, and Asian vegetables, which they sell at a farmer's market in Chicago. They named their spread "The Lucky Duck Farm" and are using the knowledge they attained from a one-year course at the Farm School in Massachusetts to live a simpler life and help with food production in the US.
- ♪ Congratulations to Jeremy Lichtenstein, who was pleased to have his KIND (Kids in Need Distributors) featured on the Harris' Heroes segment of ABC 7 WJLA news. Anyone catch the segment?

Progressive Dinner

Winter has thawed (finally!) and spring has sprung! Time to join your neighbors for some annual fun at this year's dinner, to be held Saturday, May 17.

Stroll the streets of scenic Garrett Park, dining from house to house! Registration forms and further information will be in Post Office.

For further information or questions, please contact Lillian Del Priore.

Green Again

"Eldercaring" is our donor of the month for the banner fund. The company has been advertising in the *Bugle* for the past 13 years, providing caregivers for seniors who reside in Garrett Park and need assistance with their daily activities. The company gives thanks for the community support over the years. And we thank Eldercaring and Peter Weeks, President, for their support!

As of now we are solvent for the rest of this printing year, so I won't have to ask for any more money until June! Of course if you would like to start filling next year's bucket with a donation for the "greening" of Garrett Park, please feel free to do so. You can make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98.

Your dues for the Citizens Association were due January 1, so please mail them to Box 456. Dues are good for one year, and are either \$10 per individual or \$20 per family at one address. Thinking ahead: do you have any ideas for a theme for the 4th of July festivities this year? Any and all suggestions welcome. Just let one of the officers of the Citizens Association know.

Mary Moyer

Art at Penn Place

On May 3, Garrett Park photographer Vickie Bailly will be mounting a show entitled "Farmer Tim: Where Our Food Comes From." In preparation for that event, try your hand at the quiz below! (Answers on page 10.) Be sure to come to the opening reception in the gallery that day, from 12 to 2 pm. Note that May 3 is a Saturday, not our usual Sunday, and that the time is earlier. This is intentional, so that Farmer Tim will be having his market just outside the door and will eventually join us in the gallery. Black Market Bistro will be having specials at both lunch and dinner featuring Tim's produce, and Vickie Bailly's photographs of Tim's world will appear in the restaurant as well as the gallery. The show will remain up through May 31.

Circle only one answer to each question.

- 1) What does Tim liked to be called? ☐ Tim ☐ Tim Derstine
☐ Farmer Tim ☐ any of these
- 2) What is Tim's wife's name? ☐ Charlotte ☐ Linda ☐ Hannah
☐ Sylvia
- 3) How many children does Tim have? ☐ 2 ☐ 5 ☐ 8 ☐ 10
- 4) How many grandchildren? ☐ 0 ☐ 5 ☐ 10 ☐ 30
- 5) What religion is Tim? ☐ Quaker ☐ Amish ☐ Mennonite
☐ Mormon
- 6) Which of these countries has Tim NOT visited? ☐ South Africa ☐ North Korea ☐ China ☐ Mexico
- 7) Where in Pennsylvania does Tim go for certification in Organic Farming? ☐ Pittsburgh ☐ Reading ☐ Harrisburg
☐ State College
- 8) As of May 3, 2014, how many years will Tim have been bringing his market to Garrett Park? ☐ 6 ☐ 12 ☐ 15 ☐ 18
- 9) Over the years, how many different girls have come to Garrett Park to help Tim with the market? ☐ 10 ☐ 18 ☐ 25
☐ 40
- 10) What is the name of the organic co-op Tim joined during its second year? ☐ Blue Diamond Growers ☐ Tuscarora Organic Growers ☐ West Central Cooperative

Magical Pre-History Tour

Do you like living in the past? Of course you do! So get a copy of Jonathan Paul's *Pre-History of Garrett Park*, which surveys the town's first 500 million years. Starting when proto-Garrett Park lay in the Iapetus Ocean, the Atlantic's forerunner, follow the town's progress, starting when it narrowly escaped annihilation in the Stygian inferno of the earth's interior and emerged in its undulating current-day setting, after surviving the rough-and-tumble birth of the Appalachians.

(Anybody wanting to get a glimpse of the first days of proto-Garrett Park can find it at the Niarbyl Fault on the Isle of Man, the only known modern outcropping of the Iapetus.)

Jonathan's latest opus expands on the pre-history he did for the Garrett Park Archives last year, stemming from additional research he did for his wildly successful history program at the Town Hall on March 8.

The *Pre-History* also covers the period of the dinosaurs, the ice age glaciers that brought mastodons, saber-tooth cats, and other creatures to our hills, through the first written mention 320 years ago of the tract on which Garrett Park resides, Civil War fighting, and on up to the time Robert Garrett traded an eponym for a train station here.

The 26-page epic is in the Garrett Park Archives for all wishing to read it. When the archives go online, it will be available there, too. Everybody is welcome to come into the Archives behind the Post Office counter in Penn Place whenever the "open" sign is displayed.

Charlie Snyder

County Candidates Forums

Three nonpartisan forums, cosponsored by a dozen neighboring communities, will present candidates for County Council and County Executive running in primaries June 24 for fall general elections (early primary voting June 12 to 19).

Wednesday, April 30, 7 pm: With Roger Berliner, District 1 County Councilmember; Democratic primary challenger Duchy Trachtenberg; and Republican Jim Kirkland. At Town of Chevy Chase Town Hall, 4301 Willow Lane.

Wednesday, May 21, 7 pm: With candidates for all four County Council at-large seats. At 4H Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue.

Sunday, June 8, 2 pm: With all County Executive candidates. At 4H Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue.

Attention Gardeners

Spring is here at last! Once all the debris from winter is cleared, you will no doubt find room for a new plant or two. Before going to the garden center to buy, consider waiting until Thursday, May 15, to check out the Bethesda Community Garden Club Plant Sale. You will find a wide variety of plants, some hard to find or costly at the nursery, selling at very reasonable prices and grown in the well-tended gardens of club members, including several from Garrett Park.

Annuals, perennials, herbs, and native plants and shrubs will be on offer from 7 am to 1 pm at the Bethesda Farm Women's Market at 7155 Wisconsin Avenue (metered parking in the lot behind the market). Don't miss this opportunity to beautify your garden and save money, too. More information about the club and plant sale can be found at www.bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org.

Candidates' Statements

Peter Benjamin, Mayor (incumbent)

I have been honored and pleased to be able to work with the members of this Town Council and to have been part of their many accomplishments over the past two years. I would like to list some of the most significant ones:

- After extensive work done by a citizen task force, Mayor Keller, and the previous Council, this

- Council completed their effort and passed land use and building codes to define the intent of code elements more clearly and make the code more consistent internally and with Montgomery County code.
- Again, completing work begun by the previous Mayor and Council, the Council finished work being coordinated by Councilmember Wegner on the North Kenilworth drain project and commenced and completed work on the Shelley Court drain project. These are part of a continuing effort to enhance water flow control throughout the town to reduce erosion and the effects of our storm water on streams and rivers beyond the town.
- The Council made arrangements to accommodate the retirement of Town Administrator Ted Pratt and conducted an extensive recruitment, led by Councilmember Flynn, which led to the selection of Gene Swearingen as the new Town Manager.
- With the help of citizen volunteers, and in coordination with Garrett Park Elementary School, the Council prepared a grant application to the State of Maryland under the Safe Routes

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to Schools Program for \$561,000 of 100-percent federal funding to construct new sidewalks and curbs on most of Oxford Street and one block of Kenilworth Avenue, and to rehabilitate the Montrose/Clermont sidewalk. The grant was awarded to the town in August. This controversial activity requires a little more history:

- The town became aware of the possibility of obtaining the grant in November 2012, and Councilmember Wegner attended the only grant application briefing by the State Highway Administration on November 16 to determine whether it might be of interest to the town.
- With the applications due on January 11, the issue was on the agenda for the December 6 Council meeting, where the Council authorized submitting the application after I stated that no decisions on construction of any sidewalk had been made, and if a grant were awarded the town would go through a full and open hearing process with residents before and during the design process.
- At the January 13 meeting, it was reported that the town had submitted the application.
- On August 8 the town received a letter from the State Highway Administration informing the town that it had been awarded a Safe Routes to School grant.
- After coordination with SHA, on August 22 the application and the approval letter were posted on the town Web site and PO bulletin board, and an e-mail was sent to all town mailing list subscribers informing them of the grant receipt, and giving the assurance that no decisions had been made, and no commitments would be made without full public hearings and broad discussion. It also promised to work closely with abutting land owners, and to minimize impact on trees and other plantings.
- At the next available Town Council meeting, September 9, the Council set a hearing date for the project for September 23, the first in a series to be held as the project progresses. The promise was made to be as open and cooperative as possible.
- Following the September 23 hearing, there was extensive continuing testimony at the October 14 Council meeting. At that meeting, the Council voted to accept the grant for the purpose of conducting preliminary engineering and design to determine the probable alignment of the sidewalk and its effects upon trees, plants, water flow, accessibility, etc. The Council specified that there must be a full public review at the conclusion of the preliminary engineering and that a Council action would be required at that time for the project to proceed. It also directed the appointment of a Sidewalk Citizens Advisory Committee to assist the town in the process.
- The citizens committee has been formed and is holding open meetings, a statement of work to conduct preliminary engineering and design has been developed and has been reviewed by the committee, and the SOW has been submitted to SHA for approval.
- After more than a quarter century of wrangling, the Council found common ground on the issue of bamboo growth in Porcupine Woods with the patient help of members of the Parks and Open Space Committee. Agreement was reached to constrain growth to a limited area, the area was negotiated, a Request for Proposals was developed and sent out, a contract to remove bamboo beyond that area and to install a bamboo barrier at its edge was awarded, and the work was performed.
- A citizen committee worked for almost a year with former Councilmember Mandel (later Councilmember Welch) to propose well-defined use and rental policies for Town Hall. A thoughtful, thorough policy was approved by the Council.
- Under the leadership of Councilmember Wegner, the Council contracted for a study of the status of repair of town roads and defined those portions most in need of attention and those that should be addressed after the immediate work was completed. A request for proposals was developed, several bids received and evaluated, and a contract was awarded. The work was completed in April.
- Recognizing that the town has no written personnel policy for its employees and has not adopted consistent and coherent employment policies, Councilmembers Flynn and Schulp have labored for many months developing a very extensive and complete proposal, which will be presented to the Council for consideration shortly, and will include public and employee input before adoption.
- The Council decided to replace the town Web site to enhance its reliability and capabilities, making it a more effective communications device and information source for town residents and a more useful and attractive face of the town to the world. Councilmember Chantry has chaired a citizen committee which has helped define the characteristics of the new Web site and the development of a request for proposals. Sixteen proposals have been received and are being evaluated.
- Based on investigations by Councilmember Wegner, the Council examined the advantages and disadvantages of single stream versus dual stream recycling. The Council decided to remain with dual stream in order to maximize the benefit of the recycling and minimize environmental and energy impact.
- The Council worked with the Montgomery County Police Department to determine the speeds of traffic on Strathmore Avenue in order to assess whether a speed camera would be justified. It was concluded that too few speeders exceeded the threshold of 42 mph required to give a ticket to justify a camera.
- The Council worked with the Montgomery County Police Department to review traffic flow on Kenilworth Avenue during the student arrival and departure periods to determine whether additional traffic control, modified traffic patterns, or other actions could reasonably improve student safety. It was decided to continue with current practices but also to monitor the situation more closely.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve the town with so many citizen volunteers who contributed their time and energies to the committees listed above, as well as other citizen activities not mentioned, and with this excellent and hard-working Council, which works well together and has a thoughtful approach to establishing policy. I hope to continue that relationship for yet another term, and ask for your support in doing so.

Tara M. Flynn, Council (incumbent)

I am running for a second term on the Town Council. My husband Brad Christmas and I moved to town 11 years ago and live at 10803 Kenilworth Avenue with our three children, Charlie (14), Ellie (12) and Cora (9—almost 10). I have lived in the DC area for over 20 years. I grew up just outside of Albany, New York, and graduated from the University of Rochester and the University of Buffalo School of Law.

Before joining the Council, I spent five years working with a wonderful group of people to save the Garrett Park Community Center and the Garrett Park Nursery School. We were able to accomplish that result, and now the Community Center is a beautifully renovated building that continues to house the vibrant and thriving Garrett Park Nursery School. Being a key part of that collaborative effort is one of the most gratifying experiences of my life.

I was elected to the Town Council two years ago, and I consider serving on the Council to be a privilege and honor. Early on, I was tasked with leading the effort to hire our new Town Manager. I was lucky to be supported in this effort by current colleague Hans Wegner and our former colleague Jack Mandel. The task involved developing the process for conducting a cost-effective candidate search, selecting and coordinating with the search firm, drafting the job description and job announcement, identifying candidates for interviews, and coordinating and conducting interviews. Our efforts produced a fabulous result—the hiring of the incredibly talented Gene Swearingen as our Town Manager.

For the past year, Phil Schulp and I have been working toward creating something the town has never had before—a comprehensive set of personnel policies that will help ensure that the town and its employees are treated fairly. The task is ongoing but we have made significant progress. The Council

will hold a work session to discuss policies concerning employee compensation on April 28. One of my other responsibilities is Penn Place. This past year, I have reviewed and revised leases for tenants and met with the Historic Preservation Committee about maintenance and repairs necessary for the building.

It is a challenge knowing that the decisions I make as a Councilmember impact my neighbors. When issues come before the Council, my role is to listen to interested parties, consider all the expressed views, and then make a decision that is in the best interest of the town as a whole. I am a lawyer and mediator by profession, so I try to find solutions that incorporate the interested parties’ concerns. I look for common ground. For example, when a town committee recommended the removal of all the bamboo in Porcupine Woods and some residents protested, I voted for a compromise that involved retaining a limited amount of contained bamboo.

I similarly sought common ground to address residents’ concerns about the level of citizen involvement in the Safe Routes to School side-walks grant process. I proposed the creation of the Sidewalks Citizen Advisory Committee, including property owners with property adjacent to the project and others as members, to advise the town regarding the implementation of the sidewalk project. The now-established committee ensures that residents have a direct voice in the project—including the scope of work and the design. I know my actions do not necessarily satisfy all residents who oppose the proposed sidewalks. However, I stand by my vote to accept the grant to build the sidewalks. I am confident that the sidewalks can be designed in a manner that takes into account the historical nature of the town, as well as our environmental concerns. If they are so designed, the new sidewalks will make walking and biking safer for all of our residents, including our most vulnerable populations—our youngest and oldest community members.

For the past three years, I have served on the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board, currently as its Vice-Chair. I am that body’s representative to the White Flint Downtown Advisory Committee. Both groups advise the County Executive and County Council regarding our community’s priorities and concerns. In those capacities, I have the opportunity to meet regularly with county department heads and County Council members to advance the interests of Garrett Park.

Garrett Park is a special place and I love living here. Those who helped build this town—the generations who came before us—were responsible stewards. It is our job to respect their efforts and continue to help the town to thrive by honoring the past and building for the future.

I ask for your vote on May 5. Please feel free to contact me at taraflynn.gptowncouncil@gmail.com if you have any concerns or questions.

David Altar
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"

Michael Lutkenhouse, Council

I was lucky enough to stumble upon Garrett Park 5 years ago when I needed to use a Post Office on my way home from work. What I found though that day stuck with me: in an area not far from major highways and with ample public transportation sat a small town seemingly untouched by the many cookie cutter developments in the county. I was impressed with the Victorian style houses and the Chevys; no matter where you looked, every house was uniquely its own. I knew I'd be back.

Four years ago, my wife and I made Garrett Park our home. The relaxed pace of life that comes with feeling like you're in the country while being close to work and the city made it an easy choice. We jumped into town activities by joining the Citizens Association that year, and I quickly joined the Conservation Trust in hopes of working to preserve the unique nature of the town. I attended town meetings from the start, being sure to make it whenever I wasn't on travel for work. Garrett Park, for all its quirks, was home.

I'm fortunate to be in my second term as president of the Citizens Association, but I think the time is right to join the Town Council. The issues that face the Town Council, those of budgets and infrastructure, are something I deal with every day at work. As an engineer for the Navy I've had to deal with sequestration and budget cuts while meeting the challenging needs of those serving our country. I've overseen millions of dollars, worked to fill funding gaps, and had to bridge the gaps between communities with differing opinions, all challenges similar to those the Town Council is likely to face.

Addressing town needs is something I've had previous experience in from working in the engineering office of the town in which I grew up. I gained exposure to public works, roads, and construction as well as sewer and even tree ordinances.

The ideas I hope to bring to the Council are those of inclusion and stability. I appreciate the historic nature of the town and want to work to protect that in the midst of the development around us. I want to make sure that we continue to foster the unique groups and activities that are at the heart of who we are, but most of all, I want to make sure that as we move forward, we do it as a community.

I've attended my fair share of Town Council meetings over the years and even I can't shake the feeling that the Council has, at times, made important decisions without gathering a consensus from the community. Feeling as though the Town Council valued a "good deal" over that of the opinions of the neighborhood, they have made decisions before properly informing those impacted. I certainly understand that there will always be those citizens who say they didn't know despite the best attempts by the town to inform the citizens, but that does not justify the lack of a rigorous attempt.

I've seen too many times at work that an insular group that does not consider the opinions of others does so at their peril; they will miss out on the diverse options and viewpoints of the different groups impacted and will lack the buy-in so crucial to successful projects. I think that being a person who would be new to the Council but not new to

the problems they face will allow me to be an effective member with new ideas while working to make sure we protect the historic nature of our town and value the opinion of all our neighbors.

Liz Overstreet, Council

I have lived at 10707 Montrose Avenue for 27 years, so I'm a long-time resident and a first time candidate for the Town Council. I love Garrett Park for its diversity, both in houses and people, and in the strong sense of community we enjoy here. I have always had an active interest in town affairs. Now that my work does not involve extensive travel, I am confident that I can devote the time and effort required in serving on the Town Council. I hope to give back in service to the town in which I am fortunate to live.

I work for a company that designs and produces exhibits, tradeshow, and special events. I am a financial manager, and I prepare and manage budgets for a \$30 million portfolio of the company's tradeshow business. I have been in the events and exhibition industry for most of my career, and have planned and directed events around the country and abroad.

I recently served as a board member and treasurer of a homeowners association in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. I prepared the association's operating and capital reserve budgets, helped prioritize needed capital reserve projects, and prepared cash flow analyses to assist in prioritizing projects.

To produce a successful event, you need to be creative, open to new ideas, flexible, attentive to details, willing to listen and communicate, be a good team player, and bring projects in on budget. I think these are useful skills for serving on the Garrett Park Town Council, and if elected, I believe I can put these skills to good use.

I believe in consensus—not something always achievable—but always important to work towards, especially when decisions are being made for a community. It's important to me to ask questions, get details, and learn the facts surrounding an issue. I'll bring an open mind, a willingness to listen, and a willingness to work hard to find cost-effective solutions that work.

I think that it's generally best to take the most inclusive, least presumptive, most pro-active approach possible in making decisions. Not every issue or project that requires a decision by the Council will warrant more than the normal, standard notice to us, as residents, that a particular issue is up for discussion and decision. It will continue to be our responsibility to pay attention, and be as involved as our time, passions, and interests allow on items where we want to make our voices heard. I do support and will recommend, if I am elected, that when there is a "big ticket" issue that needs to be decided, a more pro-active approach to getting input from residents be made. It's not that expensive to do, good alternative ideas may result, and regardless of whether you agree or disagree with a final decision made, your input should be solicited. Sidewalks are today's "big ticket" decision-making issue, but there will be others in the future.

I also have a particular interest in and would like to focus on energy conservation. If there is a third

round of funding for the State’s STEP program, I would like to ensure that we reapply to participate in the program, which offers free energy efficiency assessments and rebates of up to \$4,650 to residents who make energy efficiency improvements. And I would like to explore other programs and funding initiatives to support the town’s conservation efforts.

I would also like to seek support and funding to have Parks and Planning put in a new multi-use surface on the basketball area at Garrett-Waverly Park. This would make it a better area for playing ball, skating, etc, and take the pressure off the tennis courts so they’d last longer.

I also would like to get input on a “Respect Our Speed Limit” campaign in town. I have some ideas on this, and would love to get more input on this issue and my ideas.

I do believe that my skills and experience will enable me to make a positive contribution to the town if I am elected. We need to continue to work together to manage the town and the town’s budget, while facing reductions in revenue. Important decisions on allocating resources and prioritizing and financing needed capital improvements will continue to be necessary. Dealing with the pressures created by proposed White Flint development will continue to be critical.

I think as a town, we have been very successful in adapting to change while maintaining the charms and historic aspects that make our town special, due in no small part to our strong tradition of citizen involvement.

So, please vote on May 5—and please vote for me. I am proud to say I live in Garrett Park, and I am ready to do the best that I can to keep our town great and moving forward.

And please feel free to contact me—I’d love to hear from you about what’s important to you.

Hans Wegner, Council (incumbent)

My philosophy: I believe that the role of a Councilmember is to work for consensus, to find common ground, and to work cooperatively with the other Councilmembers.

I believe that, even on the difficult issues, if we ask the right questions and learn the facts, the right solution will rise to the surface so that all reasonable people can agree on the wisest course of action that best meets the needs of the town. I believe in and am conscientious about doing my homework and learning the facts on any given issue in order to make well-informed decisions.

I really appreciate the support of the residents of Garrett Park who understand that the Town Councilmembers and the Mayor are volunteers who are trying to do their best to balance the diverse and often competing needs and interests of residents (not to mention our families and jobs) with the time and money available to meet those needs. I take my role on the Council seriously, and I am willing to work hard and to make sure I do what is best for the town as a whole. I try not to bring an agenda to my role on the Council. What I do try

to do is to bring an open mind and a willingness to listen and to learn in order to find cost-effective solutions.

My areas of responsibility on the Council for the past several years have been town streets, lighting, sidewalks, storm drains, and the maintenance of Strathmore Avenue. In the past two years we have finally managed to find the funding (\$260,000) to complete the two major storm drain projects on Shelley Court and lower Kenilworth Avenue. These two projects are now essentially done. We also completed the engineering and awarded a contract to do street repairs for those sections of town streets that were beginning to fail. That work was to be done last fall, but our contractor asked to postpone the work to this spring. Thankfully that work has now been completed.

The challenges I see facing the next Council are the following:

- Addressing the maintenance of the town’s assets (streets, buildings, town equipment, street lights, parks, etc.), many of which are in need of some level of restoration and repair. Two examples are the flow of storm water through Porcupine Woods and repairing those streets we could not afford to address this year. The challenge for us is getting back on track with the comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which for reasons of cost was essentially put on hold for four years.
- Finding the needed funding for these projects at a time when our revenue in the 2015 budget year is projected to be down. We continue to experience a loss of revenue from the state and the county, and our own tax revenues are expected to be down from 2014. The budget for 2015 is very tight, and we had to cut \$40,000 from the originally proposed budget to reflect lower tax revenue projections.

I am running for Council because—

- I would like to get the CIP back onto a reasonable track. We cannot postpone badly needed work on the Town Hall, and urgently need to address those streets that we will lose if not repaired soon. I am fiscally responsible and committed to setting priorities so we can allocate our scarce resources wisely to protect town assets.
- I want to make sure that Garrett Park continues to be a place of pride for all of us, to be a place of community, civility, and respect for each other’s differences.
- I want to perpetuate the strong sense of community and neighborliness that we all enjoy as residents of Garrett Park. I know that these unique qualities that attracted us here are not an accident of history, but rather they are the result of vision and hard work by many members of our town.

I am honored to serve you on the Council and would appreciate your support on May 5. Thank you.

Answers to quiz on p 5: 1) any of these. 2) Linda. 3) 8. 4) 30. 5) Mennonite. 6) South Africa. 7) State College. 8) 18. 9) 25. 10) Tuscarora Organic Growers.